

Statement of Robert H. Johnson**Before the House Sub-Committee On National Economic Growth,****Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs****11:00AM April 23rd, 1998****2154 Rayburn Office Building**

My name is Robert H. Johnson. As a private citizen I want to thank the members and staff of the Subcommittee for this opportunity to speak in opposition to the ill-conceived Kyoto Treaty. MAY IT NEVER be signed by any member of the Senate. Nor may it ever be foisted on the American people through regulation, budget fiat or executive order. The Treaty must first be brought before the United States Senate and given very careful and thorough consideration. The proposal must be accompanied with hard analytical data produced by politically *neutral and impeccable scientific sources*. We can't afford to sacrifice reason and common sense to fear-based

decisions and actions.

I want you to know that I have been cautious about the environment long before it was fashionable. I built my 3500 sq. foot house in 1964 with greater than code required insulation. Today my heating bill is almost 50% less than the much smaller houses around me. I once drove a car that I entered in a gas milage competition and won because it got 68.63 miles to the gallon. I did it because it made logical and economical sense. That's what we need here, common sense.

Let me tell you the economic impact this Treaty could have on me. As you can see on the chart, in 1997 my family's expenditures for electricity, natural gas and gasoline were \$2545. Those costs could go up by \$1100 if the Kyoto Treaty is implemented. That is an unacceptable 38.6% decrease in our after *tax* income. It could put a pinch on our finances, but let me tell you about a

60+ year old resident of the District of Columbia that I know. She spends 83% of her \$704/month pension on her house payment. At the moment she still owes \$2,000 for gas consumed in 1997. This Treaty could decimate her meager spendable income. These could be real impacts on real people.

Though the personal effects could be adverse, I am even more concerned about the national effects of implementing this misguided Treaty. I have read a lot of articles about global warming and the Kyoto Treaty. It is appalling to me how complacent Americans have become about their own safety and sovereignty. Raul Estrada-Qyruela, Argentine's Ambassador to China and the person considered to be the architect of the Kyoto Protocol said, "Congress (he is referring to America's Congress) is out of touch with the rest of the world." Does Mr. Estrada know what's best for the United States? I do not believe that he does. Nor does the United Nations. Our military preparedness will suffer because of cuts in **fuel** usage for **all**

vehicles: land, sea and air. The current problems in our once proud military would be greatly exacerbated. And this would come at a time when non-participating countries such as China, North Korea, Iraq, Iran and others are building their military forces.

As jobs would be moved over seas to countries where environmental restrictions from the Kyoto Treaty would not apply, America will become weaker economically, to say nothing of the people here who will lose their jobs. What about those who are still working? The price of electricity and gas goes up ~~AND~~ they lose their jobs. That just isn't right.

Mr. Clinton, as President elect, came to Washington proclaiming that his administration would *be the most ethical ever*. I do not believe that he has come anywhere close to realizing that goal. I just don't trust him. You may or may not share my opinion but I'm telling you truthfully how I feel, and

you know what? I think there are some in this Congress who don't trust him either. On March 3rd, Trent Lott, Jesse Helms and Chuck Hagel sent a letter to the President. In that letter they requested that the President assure them that Secretary Eizenstat was correct in stating that the Administration would not seek to impose any binding restrictions on any elements of the U.S. economy that would have the effect of implementing terms of the Kyoto Protocol *without first being consented to by the United States Senate*. Does this sound as though they trust the President?

I hope you sense and understand my frustration and deep felt concerns, I hope you really do "feel my pain" and the pain of millions of seniors just like me. This Treaty goes far beyond hurting Americans financially. If signed, it would trample on America's soul. The American citizen has not been given enough information either pro or con to be in a position to make a completely informed and valid decision. So my plea is that each member of this

Committee makes sure the Congress gets all the facts related to the **issue** of global warming and uses, to the MAXIMUM, its full authority to control a President whose vision has been clouded by his need to build a legacy and by a Vice-President who is willing to use American's money and America's sovereignty as a stepping stone to the Presidency.

Much more than global warming is *at stake*. What's really at stake here is the possible loss of our sovereignty to the United Nations • May God forbid. You have my prayers and blessings to use all of your God given talents in pursuit of TRUTH and a return to the America that I fought for. Thank you all very much.

IMPACT OF KYOTO ON SENIORS

Mr. Robert Johnson (single home in suburban Maryland

Impact on 1997 Expenses

Electricity	\$ 793	25% increase	\$ 198
Natural Gas	1,074	40% " "	430
Gasoline	978	50 cents per gal	489
Total	\$2,845	39+% Increase To	\$3,952 (+\$1,1 17)

A widow acquaintance living in D.C.

Natural Gas	40% increase plus \$2,000+ accumulated deficit
Income	\$704 a month
House Cost:	590 a month
Net Income for Living	\$114 a month